



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/925,551 | 08/09/2001 | Peter M. Bonutti | BON-3188-3 | 7485 |

7590 09/30/2003
TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL, TUMMINO & SZABO
1111 LEADER BUILDING
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-1400

EXAMINER

BUI, VY Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3731

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/925,551

Applicant(s)

BONUTTI, PETER M. *an*

Examiner

Vy Q. Bui

Art Unit

3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-108 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-108 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-13, drawn to a method of anchoring a suture with an anchor of body tissue, classified in class 606, subclass 232.
- II. Claims 14-35, drawn to a method of anchoring a suture with an elongated member into an osseous tissue, classified in class 606, subclass 72.
- III. Claims 22-35, drawn to a method of anchoring a suture with a piece of bone, classified in class 623, subclass 16.11.
- IV. Claims 36-51, drawn to a method of anchoring a suture with a piece of dense connective body tissue, classified in class 623, subclass 16.11.
- V. Claims 52-64, drawn to a method of anchoring a suture with a piece of dried body tissue, classified in class ⁶⁰⁶~~623~~, subclass 232.
- VI. Claims 65-70, drawn to tubular wall anchor device, classified in class 606, subclass 232.
- VII. Claims 71-108, drawn to a method of anchoring a suture with a freeze drying body tissue classified in class 606, subclass 232.

Art Unit: 3731

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II, III, IV, V, VII are related as combination and subcombination.

Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for

patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other

combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed

does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because all the

inventions I-V and VII include features more particular than features in invention I.

Subcombination inventions I-V and VII claim different inventions and the inventions

each has separate process such as a process of inserting a thin elongated member into

osseous tissue (invention II), forming a piece of bone (invention III), forming a piece of

dense connective body tissue (invention IV), forming a dried body tissue (invention V)

forming a freeze drying body tissue (invention VII).

Inventions VI and I, II, III, IV, V, VII are related as product and processes of use.

The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be

shown: (1) the processes for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another

materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially

different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the

suture anchor of body tissue can be used as a vascular occlusive device in a process

materially different from the process as claimed.

Art Unit: 3731

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

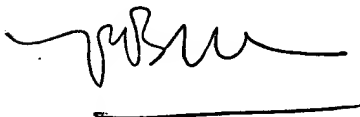
A telephone call was made to the applicant's attorney on 9/25/2003 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vy Q. Bui whose telephone number is 703-306-3420. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J Milano can be reached on 703-308-2496. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vy Q. Bui', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Vy Q. Bui

9/25/2003.